

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 268

By McNally

A RESOLUTION To honor and commend Emmet P. Vaughn, Jr.
and Linda Vaughn for their laudable service to
the Knoxville community.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Two such noteworthy individuals are Emmet P. Vaughn, Jr. and Linda Vaughn, who were recently selected by the Volunteers of America to be honored for their outstanding service to the Knoxville community; and

WHEREAS, In addition to their professional concerns, the Vaughns still find time to lend their remarkable talents to numerous worthy causes; they are tireless workers for various civic and charitable projects and are highly respected in the greater Knoxville community; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in Knoxville, Emmet P. "Buck" Vaughn graduated from the Tennessee Military Institute and the University of Tennessee, where he was a standout officer in the Reserve Officer Training Corps and earned a direct commission into the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Following gallant service in the famed 82nd Airborne and the Ordinance Corps, he resigned his Army commission and returned to civilian life, where the work ethic and character he learned in the military would lead to great personal success; and

WHEREAS, At only thirty years of age, Mr. Vaughn became President of Emmet Vaughn Lumber Company, which would become one of the nation's leading suppliers of Appalachian hardwood lumber; he quickly earned the respect and admiration of his peers and competitors and became much sought-after as a leader in the industry; and

WHEREAS, He has served as Promotion Director and President of Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc., Chairman of the Hardwood Institute, Founder and Chairman of the President's Council of Hardwood and Furniture Industry, and a member of the Boards of Directors of the National Hardwood Lumber Association and of Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc; and

WHEREAS, The character and leadership that Mr. Vaughn has displayed in his professional endeavors have been carried over into his private life and community involvement; over the years, he has served as President and a Board member of the Rotary Club, Vice Chairman of the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, President of Helen Ross McNabb Mental Health Facility, and Co-Chair of the Capital Funds Drive for the Boys and Girls Club Teen Center Project; and

WHEREAS, A great athlete and lover of sports, he has been an active participant in the establishment of numerous athletic events and charities; among other entities, he has helped to found the D. D. Lewis Golf Tournament (now known as the Phillip Fulmer Invitational), the Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame, the greater Knoxville Sports Corporation, the Lady Vols Golf Tournament, the Summer Sports Games for the Helen Ross McNabb Center, the Chet Atkin Open Golf Tournament, and numerous other charitable golf tournaments; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vaughn also helped to bring to Knoxville the city's first Women's Professional Golf Association tournament in the 1970s and the United States Golden Gloves Boxing Championship in 1987; and

WHEREAS, For his noteworthy efforts on behalf of his community, Emmet P. Vaughn, Jr. has received numerous honors, including the Golden Boy and Men Award from the Boys and Girls Club, recognition as a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, the Jefferson Award for Service to People, selection as the 1996 "Outstanding Civic Leader of East Tennessee," the 1999 Knoxville of the Year Award, and "The Medallion," which is the most prestigious national honor awarded by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America; he has also been inducted into the Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, During their twenty years of marriage, Emmet and Linda Vaughn have shared love and companionship, as well as a great desire to serve their community in any possible manner; over the years, they have been involved together in countless projects; in each of them, one or the other of the Vaughns may have been the recognized leader, but each project was invariably a joint effort by this commendable couple; and

WHEREAS, A retired employee of Delta Air Lines, Linda Vaughn has earned the admiration of her coworkers and friends throughout her life; she now serves as Corporate Secretary and a member of the Board of Directors of Emmet Vaughn Lumber, in which positions she continues to earn praise for her integrity and astute guidance; and

WHEREAS, An active community leader, she has made invaluable contributions of her substantial time, talents, and other resources to Remote Area Medical, the Helen Ross McNabb Center, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Volunteers of America, the United Way, Berea College, and numerous other noteworthy causes; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Vaughn has also served as a member of the Corporate Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Knoxville and as Secretary of the Board of Directors and a member of the Executive Committee of InterFaith Health Clinic; and

WHEREAS, The Vaughns are devout Christians and attend Bearden United Methodist Church, where they are active participants in the church's ministries; Mr. Vaughn is a Trustee and a member of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee and the Board, and Mrs. Vaughn has served on numerous committees and the Administration Board; and

WHEREAS, The Vaughns epitomize the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, The Vaughns are devoted to maintaining the highest standards of family and community values; they are the loving parents of one son, Lee Gardner, and two daughters, Suzanne Laine and Melissa Vaughn, and the proud grandparents of four grandsons, Chase, Preston, Benjamin, and Jonathan Laine; and

WHEREAS, In contemplating the motivation for their relentless efforts on behalf of the Knoxville community, Mr. Vaughn has remarked, "I firmly believe the good Lord put us on this Earth for a purpose and that one of those purposes is to leave things just a little bit better than we found them. That has been a burning goal inside my gut since I was a young man, and I always feel like I'm coming up short, but the goal remains there"; and

WHEREAS, This General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Emmet P. Vaughn, Jr. and Linda Vaughn for their dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Emmet P. Vaughn, Jr. and Linda Vaughn for their meritorious service to the Knoxville community, congratulate them on their recognition by Volunteers of America, and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.